

# The American Girl in England's Titled "Who's Who"



**Now Holds Leading Place  
In Political and Social  
Life of Europe's Most  
Brilliant Society.**

**In Many Instances American Born  
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Generation of English Peers.**

By Marguerite Mooers Marshall.

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Of course, we've always known that the American girl can do ANYTHING!

But how many of us realize that, among her achievements during the last half century, is the conquest of the only aristocracy in this democratic world which is still a "going concern"—the great families of Great Britain, with the social prerogatives and political power which still are theirs?

The recent visit of Lady Astor, M. P., once lovely Nancy Langhorne of Virginia and the very first woman to take a seat in the Mother of Parliaments, but emphasizes the fact that, in England to-day, it is the American woman who "rules the roost." And she continues to capture positions of importance—in Washington, for example, it has just been announced that the capital's social leader, Mrs. James McDonald, will become Premier Scottish Marchioness through her forthcoming marriage to Charles Gordon, Marquis of Huntly, of Abeyne Castle, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Mrs. McDonald is the widow of James McDonald, former Standard Oil magnate. The title of her fiancé dates back to the early fifteenth century, and he is Premier Marquis of Scotland.

Thus the fair, feminine invasion goes on. During recent years there has been a steady permeation of the ranks of English aristocracy by American "dollar princesses." It is

not, perhaps, generally appreciated on this side of the water that American girls have wedded many of the best "catches" at the Court of St. James's. As a result, American born women are holding a leading place in the political and social life of the most brilliant society in Europe.

And American-born women are in many instances the mothers of the next generation of English peers! We hear about the international marriages that have failed; this is a story of those that—so far as the public knows, at any rate—have succeeded. It is a partial roll-call of the American girls who fill important roles in the Old World drama.

Lady Astor herself is a charming example of the splendid position in public and private esteem which the American girl may win in England. After the unhappy ending of her first marriage to Robert Gould Shaw, she went abroad to visit. There she met young Waldorf Astor, as he was at that time. They were married in 1906, and have four sons and a daughter. The triumphs of Lady Astor's public life, as the first woman M. P., have been followed by admiring Americans for several years. But since her visit to us, every one who has met her and Lord Astor understands that theirs is a marriage of the truest and finest sort. Lord Astor himself says that in the two greatest decisions that ever confronted him he chose rightly—

first, when he chose Lady Astor for his wife; second, when he chose her to succeed him in the House of Commons as the member for Plymouth when his father's death automatically sent him up to the House of Lords.

Less than a year ago there died another tremendously successful American wife of an English husband, Lady Randolph Churchill, born Jenny Jerome of New York. She was not only the wife of a famous British statesman but the mother of one—the present Winston Churchill. In her long life she was always persona grata in royal circles and was the intimate friend and confidante of political leaders of both parties. Her position for years, both socially and politically speaking, was commanding, as was that of her friend, Lady Paget, wife of Sir Arthur Paget, daughter of Para Stevens of New York.

Another American woman known as one of London's most charming hostesses and as an admired member of its most exclusive society, is the present Lady Ribblesdale, born Ava Willing of Philadelphia, and later Mrs. John Jacob Astor. She went abroad after divorcing the late Col. John Jacob Astor, and such books as the intimate diaries of Col. Repington are full of descriptions of her beauty and popularity. The first wife of her present husband, incidentally, was a sister of Margot Asquith.

Both of the wives of an English statesman who has been much in the public eye have been Americans. He is Earl Curzon of Kedleston. He first married Mary Leiter of Chicago in 1896, two years before being appointed Viceroy of India. She died in 1906. In 1917 he married again, his second wife being Mrs. Alfred Dugan, a widow. But she was born in America—Grace Elvina Hinds, daughter of the late J. Monroe Hinds United States Minister to Brazil. Quite aside from the social prerogatives attaching to the wife of Earl Curzon, her political knowledge and influence must appeal to the imagination.

The first Lady Curzon's sister,

Marguerite Leiter, also made a notable marriage. She wed the Earl of Suffolk, one of England's oldest earldoms, and her son succeeded his father in 1917. There is, it may be pointed out, a strong suffusion of American blood in many of the young title-holders and heirs to titles in Great Britain.

Two other highly placed ladies in London society, against whose international marriages no breath of scandal has been raised, were well known figures in New York society during their girlhood. One of these two is the Duchess of Roxburghe, born Mary Goelet, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ogden Goelet. The other is the Countess of Granard, born Beatrice May of New York. They have four sons

Mills, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ogden Mills.

The son of the onetime Cornelia Martin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Martin, succeeded last year to his father's earldom of Craven. Incidentally, this youngster showed his democratic American blood by wedding no title, but, instead, Miss Mary Wilhelmina George, daughter of the Town Clerk of Invergoron.

No Englishman during the Great War was more popular with his American allies than Admiral Beatty of the Grand Fleet—Admiral Lord Beatty, with his cap forever cocked jauntily to one side. It was whispered that the reason he knew how to get along so well with Americans was because he had married one—Ethel Field, the oldest daughter of Marshall Field of Chicago. Lady Beatty accompanied the Admiral when he visited this country not long ago. They have two sons.

Another distinguished Englishman whose American-born wife undoubtedly "helps him in his business," is Sir Auckland Geddes, British Ambassador at Washington. Lady Geddes was Isabella, daughter of W. A. Ross

and a daughter.

Viscount Harcourt, a busy English administrator, Secretary of State for the Colonies from 1910 to 1915 and First Commissioner of Works from 1915 to 1917, found a loyal and helpful partner in Miss Mary Ethel Buri, an American girl, who was the niece of the late J. P. Morgan.

The Earl of Ancester, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture since 1921 and one who has served his country in many other capacities, also married a New York girl, Eloise Breese, daughter of W. L. Breese. They have two sons and two daughters—another earldom "Americanized" for the future.

Then, there is the Countess of Donoughmore, in her American days Elena Grace, daughter of the late M. P. Grace of New York; Lady Cheylesmore, daughter of the late Francis O. French of New York; the dowager Countess of Essex, who was Adele, daughter of Beach Grant of New York.

The onetime Mildred Carter, daughter of John Ridgely Carter, Baltimore banker, became Countess of Gosford the other day, through her father-in-law's death.

Many apparently happy and successful marriages of American girls to English men of title and position

have taken place in the last ten or fifteen years. New York remembers well the wedding of Vivien Gould, the second daughter of George Gould, to Lord Decies. In 1911 Mildred Sherman, daughter of the late W. Watts Sherman, became Lady Camoys. The son and heir of Lord Camoys bears the good American name of "Sherman." Pretty Margaretta Drexel of Philadelphia was married a year earlier to Viscount Maidstone.

Even the war did not stop the Anglo-American matrimonial entente. In 1918 Patricia Burke, who won a beauty prize in Los Angeles, Cal., became the wife of the fourth Earl of Cottenham. Miss Alice Eyre, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Eyre of New York, wedded in the same year Viscount Camden, heir of the Earl of Gainsborough. Not long ago Miss Eleanor May Guggenheim, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Guggenheim of this city, became the wife of Viscount Stewart, heir of Earl Castlestewart.

And this is only a part of the long list of American girls who have made good in English public and private life. When you consider how few English girls get the chance to marry American men—well, do you believe the English girls think the "balance of trade" is fair?